

What is claimed is:

1. A wheelbarrow comprising:

a wheeled body, said body being generally in the shape of a sloping shovel having

two opposite side walls, a front loading end and a rear receptacle end;

a pair of laterally spaced handles fixedly attached to said body; and

a fulcrum mechanism pivotably connected to said wheelbarrow and moveable from a retracted position where said fulcrum mechanism is clearing the ground and an

operative position where said fulcrum mechanism is in engagement with the ground

and acting as a fulcrum , whereby when force is applied to the handles to swing said front loading end of said body to shovel up a load, the fulcrum mechanism cooperates to assist in levering up a load of material.

2. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fulcrum mechanism

comprises:

a fulcrum leg member pivotably connected to each side of said body at the front loading end thereof, a free end of said fulcrum leg member being configured to engage to the ground;

a first link member pivotably connected to each side of said body at the rear receptacle end thereof ;

a second link member pivotably connecting between said fulcrum leg member and said first link member; and

a cross bar transversely extending behind said body and underneath said handles, each end of said cross bar being secured to said first link member at each opposite side of said body;

whereby pushing said cross bar towards the front loading end drives said fulcrum mechanism from said retracted position to said operative position.

3. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein a spring is operatively arranged between each handle and each pivotably connecting first link member, said springs providing the spring bias for said fulcrum mechanism.

4. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of said first link members comprises a first portion pivotably connected to said second link member, a second portion pivotably connected to said body, and a third portion secured to said cross bar.

5. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein a stop plate is provided on each fulcrum leg member at the free end thereof for limiting the penetration of the free end of each fulcrum leg member into the ground, said stop plate being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said fulcrum leg member.

6. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein the free end of each fulcrum leg member is tapered.

7. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein the front loading end of said body comprises a blade portion.

8. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 7, wherein each opposite sidewall at the front

5 loading end of said body has a height tapering towards said blade portion.

9. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pair of laterally spaced handles are fixedly attached to the opposite side walls of said body respectively.

10 10. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wheelbarrow comprises two wheels each being rotatably mounted on an axle on each side wall of said body, said wheels being mounted intermediate said sloping shovel end and said rear end of said body.

15 11. A wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first link member is triangular in shape.

12. A self-loading type wheelbarrow configured to be operable by one operator comprising:

20 a wheeled body, said body being generally in the shape of a sloping shovel having two opposite side walls, a front loading end and a rear receptacle end;  
a pair of laterally spaced handles fixedly attached to said body; and

a fulcrum mechanism pivotably connected to said wheelbarrow and moveable from a retracted position where said fulcrum mechanism is clearing the ground and an operative position where said fulcrum mechanism is in engagement with the ground and acting as a fulcrum while force is being applied to the handles to swing said front loading end of said body to shovel up a load; wherein said fulcrum mechanism comprises:

a fulcrum leg member pivotably connected to each side wall of said body at the front loading end thereof, a free end of said fulcrum leg member being configured to engage to the ground;

a first link member pivotably connected to each side wall of said body at the rear receptacle end thereof;

a second link member pivotably connecting between said fulcrum leg member and said first link member; and

a cross bar transversely extending behind said body and underneath said handles, each end of said cross bar being secured to said first link member at each opposite side of said body;

whereby pushing said cross bar towards the front loading end by a foot of the operator drives said fulcrum mechanism from said retracted position to said operative position.

13. A self-loading type wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 12, wherein a spring is operatively arranged between each handle and each pivotably connecting first link member, said springs providing the spring bias for said fulcrum mechanism.

14. A self-loading type wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 12, wherein each of said first link members comprises a first portion pivotably connected to said second link member, a second portion pivotably connected to said body, and a third portion  
5 secured to said cross bar.

15. A self-loading type wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 12, wherein a stop plate is provided on each fulcrum leg member at the free end thereof for limiting the penetration of the free end of each fulcrum leg member into the ground, said stop  
10 plate being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said fulcrum leg member.

16. A self loading type wheelbarrow as claimed in claim 12 wherein said springs urge said fulcrum leg members into a rearward position, and thus assist in forcing the  
15 sloping shovel body forwardly into a load.